

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02

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FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 368

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION US BERLIN

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 5202

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: BEXP, PFOR, JA, GE

SUBJECT: GDR TRADE DELEGATION'S VISIT TO JAPAN

REF: A) BERLIN 5097 B) BERLIN 5163

1. DIRECTOR OF FOREIGN MINISTRY'S NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION, DR. HANS-MARTIN GEYER, WHO IS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR RELATIONS WITH JAPAN, TOLD DCM FEBRUARY 5 THAT THE RECENT VISIT TO TOKYO OF GDR TRADE DELEGATION HEADED BY GUENTER MITTAG, OF WHICH GEYER HAD BEEN A MEMBER, WAS "EXTREMELY SUCCESSFUL AND VERY IMPORTANT NOT ONLY FOR JAPANESE/GDR BILATERAL RELATIONS BUT FOR PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE". GEYER SAID GDR HAD OBTAINED THE FIRST UNRESTRICTED MFN AGREEMENT WITH ANY "WESTERN" NATION AS THE CAPSTONE OF THIS VISIT. THERE HAD BEEN A DINNER HOSTED BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER WHICH LASTED TWO AND THREE-QUARTERS HOURS AT WHICH TOASTS HAD BEEN PARTICULARLY FRIENDLY. CONTACTS WITH LEADING MINISTERS, CABINET

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MEMBERS AND INDUSTRIALISTS HAD BEEN ARRANGED FOR THE

25-MAN GDR DELEGATION. GEYER DID NOT REFER TO THE PRESENCE OF DR. BEIL ON THIS DELEGATION. BEIL, DEPUTY GDR MINISTER FOR FOREIGN TRADE, WENT TO TOKYO AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR A VISIT TO THE U.S.

2. THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR TO THE GDR SUBSEQUENTLY TOLD US THAT THE EAST GERMANS HAD DECIDED ON THIS TRIP AT THE END OF DECEMBER. THE TRADE AGREEMENT, EXCEPT FOR A FEW DETAILS, HAD BEEN WORKED OUT BEFOREHAND IN BERLIN. IT IS A "SIMPLE" AGREEMENT THAT WILL NOT REQUIRE RATIFICATION BY THE DIET. AMBASSADOR TANI THOUGHT THAT OBTAINING AN AGREEMENT WAS MORE IMPORTANT TO THE GDR THAN THE BENEFITS IN TRADE THAT WOULD RESULT. HE BELIEVES THESE WILL BE MODEST, ALTHOUGH IN A SENSE THEY WILL CONSTITUTE A NEW PHASE IN RELATIONS: AN EXTENSION OF CREDIT TO THE GDR ON PAYMENTS, AND POSSIBLY THE PURCHASE OF ONE OR TWO JAPANESE INDUSTRIAL PLANTS.COOPER

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